

Lester shines as Wanderers break duck

By MICHAEL KNOX
Wycombe Wands 1, Boreham Wood 0

WYCOMBE Wanderers broke their duck at last on Tuesday night when outstanding performances by goalkeeper Gary Lester and striker Terry Glynn helped them to their first Berger Isthmian League victory of the season.

Lester made a series of outstanding saves including one from a first minute penalty while Glynn, who had struggled since his £900 signing from Enfield, fired in the winning shot during a much improved performance.

The relief at Loakes Park was obvious. Before the match Wanderers stood in an unprecedented position, one from bottom of the table, but they should be on their way after this victory over Boreham Wood in a tight match.

Blues boss Mike Keen summed up the club feeling afterwards. "It may have been a bit of a scrappy match but the important thing was that it was a victory, and that should do wonders for the players' confidence."

Penalty

But he must have been worried after just 35 seconds of this encounter when the

visitors were awarded a penalty. Goerge Borg, whose enthusiasm often gets the better of him, handled the ball when trying to clear a dangerous situation — right under the nose of the referee.

Gerry Jones sent the spot-kick down the hill to Lester's left but the goalkeeper was equal to the task and palmed the shot away much to the delight of the Loakes Park faithful.

But Lester's best save of all came ten minutes later when he somehow deflected a 30 yard piledriver from Kevin Hull round a post. It was one of the best saves seen at the ground for some time.

The rest of the first half was a non event with neither side creating many chances. Boreham Wood, coached by former Blues boss Andy Williams, looked a well organised unit and their terrier like tactics gave them the edge before the interval.

Wycombe improved as the half progressed and for the 15 minutes after the break took the game by the scruff of the neck.

Glynn at last found some room to show his skills, while full-backs Paul Birdseye and Borg caused the Wood defence problems with some overlapping runs.

Glynn missed one great

chance by taking too long after being put clear by a rebound but he featured in the winning goal which came in the 59th minute.

The visitors' off-side trap for once misfired and Glynn made a strong 15 yard run on the right unchallenged. With time to take aim, he rifled in a low 15 yard shot which ricocheted off defender Steve O'Neill's hand before entering the net.

Technically it was an own goal but Glynn deserved the accolade for his persistence and no doubt the club will give him the credit, just to give a boost to his confidence.

Good touches

Almost immediately Wycombe brought on newcomer Jimmy Richardson for young mid-field player Paul West, who showed a few good touches, without setting the game alight.

Richardson, who includes Fulham and Folkestone among his previous clubs, is generally regarded as a back four player. But he played in mid-field with some gusto during the last 25 minutes.

His giant stride ate up the ground and he might have to get used to playing in mid-field, where he could become a useful acquisition.

But for two excellent saves

by the Wood 'keeper Steve Waller from Paul Birdseye and Gary Toll, Wanderers could have sealed the result long before the end.

Instead they led by this vulnerable margin, which looked like disappearing altogether in the closing seconds when Jeff Batten had a clear opening from close range. But to his dismay and Wanderers' delight, his effort struck the under-side of the bar and was cleared.

WYCOMBE: G. Lester, P. Birdseye (capt), G. Borg, R. Davies, K. Mead, R. Dell, P. West (sub: J. Richardson 65 mins), H. Kennedy, T. Glynn, G. Toll, S. Long.

BOREHAM WOOD: S. Waller, D. Tyler, K. Hull, S. O'Neill, L. McCormack, M. Bevans, T. Vaughn, J. Batten, R. Butler, P. Watson (sub: C. Myers 70 mins), G. Jones.

Referee: A. Bowers (Oxford).
Half-time 0-0. Scorer: Wycombe: Glynn (59 mins).

Attendance: 550.

BERGER ISTHMIAN LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION										
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts			
Enfield	5	3	2	0	10	5	11			
Slough	5	2	3	0	8	4	9			
Tooting	5	3	0	2	8	6	9			
Bromley	5	2	3	0	7	5	9			
Staines	4	2	2	0	9	2	8			
Hitchin	5	2	2	1	8	5	8			
Walthamstow	4	2	1	1	4	3	7			
Sutton	5	2	1	2	7	10	7			
Barking	5	2	1	2	9	11	7			
Dulwich	4	1	3	0	10	8	6			
Leytonstone	4	2	0	2	10	9	6			
Leatherhead	5	1	3	1	4	7	6			
Harrow	5	1	2	2	6	6	5			
Dagenham	4	1	2	1	9	9	5			
Croydon	4	1	2	1	3	3	5			
Hendon	5	1	2	2	5	7	5			
Wycombe	5	1	2	2	4	7	5			
Hayes	4	1	1	2	1	2	4			
Boreham Wood	5	1	1	3	4	9	4			
Harlow	5	0	3	2	5	7	3			
Woking	5	1	0	4	10	3				
Carshalton	4	1	0	3	8	3				